

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**  
**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RESERVING A VIRTUAL**  
**CONNECTION IN AN IP NETWORK**

5           A method and system for reserving a virtual  
connection from a source workstation to a destination  
workstation. Packets of data are transmitted over a  
network between an ingress node of the source workstation  
and an egress node of the destination workstation. In  
10 accordance with the method of the present invention, a  
reservation request is delivered from the source  
workstation to a reservation server. The reservation  
server includes a user database for storing the  
identification of each user allowed to access to the  
reservation server and also stores the rights of each  
user. The reservation server further includes a network  
database for storing the information describing a network  
capacity required to set up the virtual connection. A  
verification is then performed to determine whether or  
not the reservation request may be validated in view of  
20 user information within said source workstation. A  
second verification is performed to determine whether or  
not the capacity of said network is sufficient to meet  
the requirements of the reservation request. In response  
to the capacity of the network being sufficient to meet  
25 the requirements of the reservation request, a virtual  
connection is established from the ingress node to the  
egress node.